

## **Canadian Biodiversity Index - First Results of Proof of Concept Testing**

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Testing of a Canadian Biodiversity Index (CBI) as a tool to facilitate reporting on biodiversity in a meaningful, concise, and easy-to-understand way, and provide guidance to policy makers on the status and trends of biodiversity is underway in several regions across Canada, including Georgia Basin/Puget Sound. The draft framework for the CBI comprises four theme areas: species and genes; animal habitats and plant communities; global and landscape influences; and human influences. A series of indicators is established for each of the theme areas. Individual indicators are measured against attainment of a “desired future state”. Qualitative responses to the indicator assessments are aggregated at the theme, ecounit and national levels. The Proof of Concept Testing phase is exploring the usefulness of existing monitoring programs, and associated goals, objectives and targets, as monitoring frameworks for the CBI. Data from forest, bird and wetlands monitoring networks are being compiled and the results will be presented. Early results indicate that the CBI provides a useful framework for combining the results of several monitoring programs. However, there is no individual monitoring program that will provide sufficient depth of information to assess status and trends in biodiversity using the CBI.